

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 4, 2009. Claims 1, 5 and 20 to 35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 23, 25 and 30 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 23, 25 and 30 were objected to for various informalities. Applicants have amended the claims to correct typographical errors as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 23 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments to the claims have obviated this rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 5, 20 to 22 and 25 to 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0085942 (Narusawa) in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0142325 (Leslie), and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,947,158 (Kitamura). Claims 23, 24, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Narusawa in view of Kitamura. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns printing in a system where a printer is operated in a stand-alone fashion. In one aspect of the invention, a print system is arranged so that the printer, which is a stand-alone type, can transmit image data to a host in accordance with an operation of a specific operation button of the printer. The image data is transmitted in such a way that the image data may be previewed on the host, and also causes the host to generate and

transmit a print instruction to the printer in accordance with the operation of a specific operation button of the printer. In this way, the printer system exercises print control only through operation of the operation panel of the printer. To do so, the printer generates an interrupt event corresponding to the specific operation button of the printer, so that the host detects whether the interrupt event transmitted by the printer is the interrupt event corresponding to the specific operation button of the printer.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system, in which a printer and a host computer, each of which includes a communication interface for transmitting and receiving information in real time, are connected to each other to communicate with each other. The printer includes a read-out unit for reading out image data from a detachable recording medium of the printer; an operation panel including a plurality of operation members, each for receiving an instruction from a user, wherein the plurality of operation members includes at least a print instruction button, a preview display button, and a print setting button; a printer engine for performing printing; an operation panel controller for effecting control so as to cause the printer engine to print the image data read out from the detachable recording medium of the printer if the print instruction button is operated by the user without operating the preview display button, and if one of the print instruction button and the print setting button is operated by the user subsequently to operation of the preview display button, generate a corresponding interruption event to transmit the generated interruption event to the host computer via the communication interface of the printer so that the printer engine effects printing in accordance with a print instruction including print image data being received from the host computer when the print instruction button is operated subsequently to the operation to the preview display button; and a transmission unit for transmitting, via the communication interface

of the printer, the image data which is read out by the read-out unit. The host computer includes an interruption controller for, in response to the preview display button being operated, detecting the interruption event transmitted by the printer; a receiving unit for receiving, from the printer, the print setting information generated by the printer and the image data read out from the detachable recording medium of the printer, if the interruption controller detects that the interruption event transmitted by the printer is the corresponding interruption event which is generated and transmitted by the operation panel controller of the printer in accordance with the print setting button being operated subsequently to the operation of the preview display button; a display control unit for causing a display apparatus to effect a print preview display on the basis of the print setting information and image data received by the receiving unit; and a print instruction generation unit for generating a print instruction including print image data and transmitting the generated print instruction to the printer, if the interruption controller detects that the interruption event transmitted by the printer is the corresponding interruption event which is generated and transmitted by the operation panel controller of the printer in accordance with the print instruction button being operated subsequently to the operation of the preview display button.

Claim 23 is directed to a print system having a host computer substantially in accordance with Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Narusawa, Leslie and Kitamura, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the print system of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of a printer and a host computer, both of which are connected to each other to communicate with each other, wherein the printer

prints image data read out from a detachable recording medium of the printer if a print instruction button is operated by a user without operating a preview display button, and if one of the print instruction button and a print setting button is operated by the user subsequently to operation of the preview display button, the printer generates a corresponding interruption event to transmit the generated interruption event to the host computer so that the printer prints in accordance with a print instruction being received from the host computer when the print instruction button is operated subsequently to the operation to the preview display button, and wherein the host computer prints a preview display upon detecting that the interruption event transmitted by the printer is the corresponding interruption event which is generated and transmitted by the printer in accordance with the print setting button being operated subsequently to the operation of the preview display button, and generates the print instruction including print image data to transmit the generated print instruction to the printer, if the host computer detects that the interruption event transmitted by the printer is the corresponding interruption event which is generated and transmitted by the printer in accordance with the print instruction button that is operated subsequently to the operation of the preview display button.

In the present Office Action, it is stated that the "combination of Narusawa and Leslie does not explicitly disclose a print instruction generation unit in a host computer." However, the Office Action contends that Kitagawa discloses such a feature. However, Applicants disagree with this characterization of Kitagawa. In contrast to the Office Action's characterization of Kitagawa, Applicants submit that Kitagawa discloses in Fig. 3 a print instruction window which displays an "OK" button that is operative to initiate printing. That is, in Kitagawa, a print instruction is generated and transmitted in response to an instruction provided on the window displayed on the PC itself and, therefore, has nothing to do with

operation of the operation button of a printer. That is, upon operation of the operation button of the printer, interrupt event transmitted from the printer, which corresponds to the specific operation button of the printer which is operated by the user. Thus, Kitagawa fails to disclose detecting interrupt event transmitted by a printer is an interrupt event which is generated and transmitted by the printer in accordance with the print setting button of the printer being operated subsequently to the operation of the preview display button. Accordingly, as Kitagawa does not disclose such an arrangement in the printer, Kitagawa cannot possibly disclose or suggest a host having the receiving unit of Claim 1 for receiving the interrupt request from the printer nor the print instruction generation unit responsive to the interrupt request.

Accordingly, the cited references of Narusawa, Leslie and Kitamura, whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1 and 23. In light of these deficiencies in Narusawa, Leslie and Kitamura as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 23 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claim 25 is directed to a print system control method substantially in accordance with the print system of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 25 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 30 is directed to a print system control method substantially in accordance with the print system of Claim 23. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 30 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire #42,419/
Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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